

Brown Soil and Water Conservation District 2025 Tree Information

The following list of trees and shrubs are available through the Brown Soil & Water Conservation District's annual tree sales program. Don't see what you're looking for or have questions about a specific tree? Contact Brown SWCD for more information at 507-794-2553.

BARE ROOT SHRUBS & TREES		Mature Size	Light	Spacing
Common Chokecherry	Common chokecherry can be a small suckering tree or a large shrub that can potentially form large, dense thickets. Fruits are often used to make jelly. The common chokecherry works well as a windbreak, wildlife habitat, and ornamental.	20-30'	Full Sun to Part Shade	3-8'
Redosier Dogwood	This red twig dogwood cultivar is a rapid-growing, multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub which grows to a maximum size of 6-8' tall with a rounded, spreading habit. The outstanding ornamental feature of this plant is its bright red winter stems which are particularly showy against a snowy backdrop. Tiny white flowers appear in flat-topped clusters in late spring, and give way to clusters of whitish drupes in late summer. Fruit is quite attractive to birds and is generally considered to have as much if not more ornamental interest than the flowers. Ovate to lanceolate, dark green leaves (2-4" long) turn an attractive reddish purple in autumn.	6-8'	Full Sun to Part Shade	3-5'
Villosa Lilac (late bloom)	Late blooming. Small shrub. Oval dark green leaves. Abundant blossoming in pink-mauve fragrant panicles.	6-10'	Full Sun	3-5'
Nannyberry	A large growing "leggy" native shrub that can be pruned into a small tree form. It produces 2-3" clusters of white flowers in the spring. Mature fruit are black in color. Fall color is deep maroon to red. The glossy, green leaves are 1 1/2" wide and up to 4" long. Prefers moist soils.	12-15'	Full Sun to Part Shade	3-8'
Red Splendor Crabapple	An upright, more or less open headed tree. Flowers are a rosy red bloom. Outstanding features include the tree's almost complete disease resistance and its small red fruit, 1cm in diameter, that cling to the trees all winter. The flowering crabapple are a durable and highly useful ornamental trees that are strikingly beautiful in bloom.	15-20'	Full Sun	8-10'
American Linden	The American Linden, also known as basswood, is a large, well formed deciduous tree. This species has a broad, spreading crown with large heart shaped leaves and fragrant flowers. This tree has a medium growth rate and is beneficial for wildlife and honeybees.	60-80'	Full Sun to Part Shade	12-20'
Hackberry	This tree can attain very large proportions, but usually grows 40'-60' in height and 1'-1½' in diameter. When grown in the open, it develops a short bole and a large rounded crown. It has simple, elm-like leaves and can be identified by its many corky warts and ridges of bark on the trunk. It produces fruit in the form of ½"-1" purple drupes. Average to moist soils. Tolerates drought and variety of soil conditions.	40-60'	Full Sun	12-20'
Sugar Maple	A large tree, often 80' or more tall with a trunk up to 3 ft in diameter. It has a large, dense and rounded crown and is one of the giants of the forest. Its leaves are opposite, palmately lobed and deciduous. Sugar maple has deeply furrowed gray bark which turns almost black when wet. There are dozens of named cultivars of sugar maple, selected for fall color, shape, leaf characteristics, size, hardiness or sugar production.	60-80'	Full Sun to Partial Sun	12-20'
Rubrum (Red) Maple	Red maple has long been valued as an ornamental tree (shade, specimen, autumn accent, or wet site) because of its ease of establishment, rapid growth, brightly colored flowers and fruit, and fall leaf colors (ranging from clear yellow to orange to vivid red) displaying coloring during different seasons of the year. This tree is preferred over silver maple or boxelder when a fast growing maple is needed. Red maple can be planted onto many types of disturbed sites in rehabilitation projects.	40-60'	Sun	15-20'
Bur Oak	Bur Oak has several unique traits among large shade trees: fiddle-shaped foliage that is thick and large, bark on lower trunks that has thick, vertical flattened ridges with very deep furrows, large fringed acorns, and stout semi-corky twigs; in addition, the tree often stands alone in fields in the wild, displaying its bold texture of a massive trunk and huge spreading limbs from a distance, and being very drought tolerant due to its very deep taproot system	70-80'	Sun	12-20'
Siouxland Poplar	Fast growing tree used for windbreaks and riparian plantings. Requires moist soil but can tolerate dry soil. Non-Native. Yellow fall color.	40-60'	Full Sun	12-20'
Hybrid Willow	Willow Hybrid, on average, and under normal conditions, will grow six feet per year. Under ideal conditions and on good sites the growth rate is even faster. Planted as a hedge, screen, windbreak, or to line a road or drive, you can expect this tree to be over 20' tall and 15' wide in just three years.	50-75'	Full Sun	8-20'

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CONIFERS - BARE ROOT AND POTTED		Mature Size	Light	Spacing
Eastern Red Cedar	A common medium-sized tree often seen on old fields and other open areas. The dark green leaves, glaucous blueberry-like cones, and red heartwood are very fragrant. Open-grown trees normally have a distinctive dense columnar or conical shape. Sandy or rocky soil.	30-45'	Sun	8-10'
Rocky Mountain Juniper	Is a medium sized dioecious or rarely monoecious tree that is scraggly with rounded crown to pyramidal. The bark is dark reddish-brown to grayish in color, thin, fibrous, and usually shreds with age. Leaves are green or blue-green, usually barely overlapping and closely appressed, scalelike and 0.2-0.3 cm (1/16-1/8") long or needlelike and 0.6-1.2 cm (1/4-1/2") long.	30-40'	Sun	12-20'
White Pine	It is a truly magnificent tree attaining a height of 80 feet at maturity with a diameter of two to three feet. It carries long, soft bluish green needles with large brown cones. Cones are 4-8 inches in length and are rather thin and never have prickles. Widely used as a screen or windbreak.	50-80'	Sun	20' permanent OR 10' then remove every other tree after mature
Ponderosa Pine	Pinus Ponderosa will grow on most soils including very sandy soils and sites with very little topsoil. Once established, it is very drought resistant. With good care, Pinus Ponderosa will grow to a height of six feet in six years. It is widely used in windbreaks. It is the most frequently planted of the large, long-needled native pines.	60-100'	Sun	
Black Hills Spruce	A tree noted for its dark green foliage and conical form. It is a truly cold adapted tree and is very resistant to winter injury. Young Picea Glauca var. Densata are dense with stout 3/4 to 1-1/4 inch needles.	20-50'	Sun	
Colorado Spruce	Gorgeous, brilliant, stately. The Picea Pungens, is a pyramidal shaped evergreen with steel blue foliage. It prefers heavier soils, full sun, and clean cultivation. Picea Pungens will reach a height of six feet in eight years on a good site. The Picea Pungens is probably the most drought tolerant of all spruce. It is widely used in windbreaks or as an ornamental yard tree.	30-90'	Full Sun	
Norway Spruce	A fast growing tree that can grow to 150 ft. Should reach 5 ft. in 6 to 7 years, starting with a 2-yr. seedling. Dense, dark green needles never get longer than 1". Thrives well in average soil conditions, but prefers moisture in the soil to maintain its deep green color. Highly valued ornamental and timber tree.	120-150'	Full Sun	



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BARE ROOT SHRUBS & TREES			
	Wildlife Habitat Benefits	Bloom Season	Pollinator Benefits
Common Chokecherry	It is used extensively by deer as a browse source in the winter. The early spring flowers provide an important source of nectar for butterflies, honeybees and ants.	May-June	yes
Redosier Dogwood	The flowers are a source of nectar and pollen for many insects such as native bees, wasps, flies and butterflies, and the fruit provide food to wood ducks, song birds, upland gamebird and some small rodents.	May-August	yes
Villosa Lilac (late bloom)	It provides escape cover and habitat for songbirds and various small mammals. Lilac species are rated excellent for pollen availability when bees first emerge in the spring.	May - June	yes
Nannyberry	The fruits are sweet and edible and are eaten by many species of birds and wildlife.	May-June	yes
Red Splendor Crabapple	The Red Splendor crabapple's red fruit is a food source for wildlife, especially in the winter and early spring. Birds like cardinals, cedar waxwings, and robins are especially attracted to crabapples. The tree's pink flowers in the spring attract bees and other pollinators. The tree hosts many insects that feed the food chain.	April - June	yes
American Linden	Basswood is good browse and buds are important for birds and deer in winter. Fruits are eaten by birds and small mammals. The wood decays easily and produces many cavities (especially in trees past 120 years of age), which are used by cavity-nesting animals (wood ducks, pileated woodpeckers, other birds, and small mammals). Basswood is a prolific nectar producer and pollination by honeybees results in a choice grade of honey.	June-August	yes
Hackberry	Wild turkey, ring-necked pheasant, quail, grouse, lesser prairie chicken, cedar waxwing, robins, and other bird species consume common hackberry fruit, which persist throughout the winter. Small mammals also consume the fruit. Deer will browse common hackberry leaves in the absence of preferred browse species. Common hackberry provides good cover for species such as mule deer, white-tailed deer, upland game birds, small non-game birds, and small mammals.	April-May	yes
Sugar Maple	White-tailed deer commonly browse sugar maple. Red squirrel, gray squirrel, and flying squirrels feed on the seeds, buds, twigs, and leaves. Songbirds, woodpeckers, and cavity nesters nest in sugar maple. Although the flowers appear to be wind-pollinated, the earlyproduced pollen may be important to the biology of bees and other pollen-dependent insects because many insects, especially bees, visit the flowers.	April-June	yes
Rubrum (Red) Maple	The seeds, buds and flowers are eaten by various wildlife species. Squirrels and chipmunks store the seeds. White-tailed deer, moose, elk browse red maple, and rabbits, which find the stump sprouts especially palatable, especially in fall and winter. Cavities in red maples in river floodplain communities are often well suited for cavity nesters such as the wood duck and others.	April-May	yes
Bur Oak	The acorns are eaten by many birds and mammals, including squirrels, rabbits, ground squirrels, mice, deer, wood ducks, and blue jays. They are dispersed by rodents and blue jays, which frequently cache the acorns for later use. The foliage is eaten by deer and cattle. Red-tailed hawks, screech owls, fox squirrels, and flying squirrels nest in large trees of bur oak.	early spring	yes
Norway/ Siouland Poplar	Songbirds, mammals, and sapsuckers all utilize this poplar for food or shelter	April-May	yes
Hybrid Willow	This plant is provides wood and shelter for many game birds and forage for deer.	May-June	yes

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	Wildlife Habitat Benefits	Bloom Season	Pollinator Benefits
Eastern Red Cedar	Their twigs and foliage are eaten extensively by hooved browsers, but the chief attraction to wildlife is the bluish-black berry-like fruit. Numerous birds and mammals, both large and small, make these fruits an important part of their diet. Cedars provide important protective and nesting cover. In winter, their dense protective shelter is especially valuable.	April-May	no
Rocky Mountain Juniper	Their twigs and foliage are eaten extensively by hooved browsers, but the chief attraction to wildlife is the bluish-black berry-like fruit. Numerous birds and mammals, both large and small, make these fruits an important part of their diet. Cedars provide important protective and nesting cover. In winter, their dense protective shelter is especially valuable.	April-May	no
White Pine	It has fair wildlife value. Gray and red squirrels, deer, mice and 16 species of songbirds have been known to eat the seed.	June	no
Ponderosa Pine	Many birds and animals consume the seeds of ponderosa pine as well as use the bark and needles for nesting material. The trees are also important to various birds for cover, roosting and nesting sites.	May-June	no
Black Hills Spruce	It is highly significant for food and cover of many wildlife species.	May	no
Colorado Spruce	Proides shelter and food for a wide variety of species	June	no
Norway Spruce	Proides shelter and food for a wide variety of species	June	no



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